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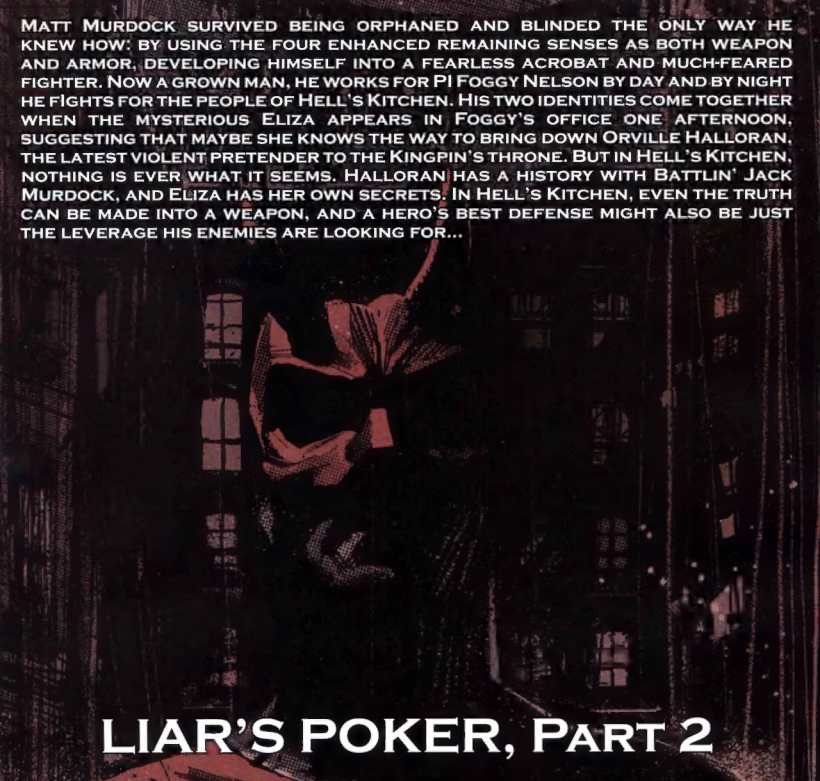
Matt Murdock survived being orphaned and blinded the only way he knew how: by using the four enhanced remaining senses as both weapon and armor, developing himself into a fearless acrobat and much-feared fighter. Now a grown man, he works for PI Foggy Nelson by day and by night he fights for the people of Hell's Kitchen. His two identities come together when the mysterious Eliza appears in Foggy's office one afternoon, suggesting that maybe she knows the way to bring down Orville Halloran, the latest violent pretender to the Kingpin's throne. But in Hell's Kitchen, nothing is ever what it seems. Halloran has a history with Battlin' Jack Murdock, and Eliza has her own secrets. In Hell's Kitchen, even the truth can be made into a weapon, and a hero's best defense might also be just the leverage his enemies are looking for...



LIAR'S POKER, Part 2

Writer: Alexander Irvine
Art: Tomm Coker
Colors: Daniel Freedman
Letters: VC's Joe Caramagna
Cover: Tomm Coker & Daniel Freedman
Variant Cover: Dennis Calero
Production: Joe Sabino
Asst. Editor: Sebastian Girner
Editor: Axel Alonso
Editor in Chief: Joe Quesada
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A PERMANENT SOLUTION. HUH? THAT'S WHAT HALLORAN SAID?
THOSE WERE HIS WORDS.
OKAY. THIS IS THE PART YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND, BECAUSE IT'S ABOUT WHAT'S JUST AND RIGHT AND FAIR.
TOUCHE.

"...PRAY ENLIGHTEN ME."
FENIAN'S
If there's a war coming, then I'm the wild card.
They've got the numbers, and they've got the guns, but they can't do what I do.
I always know where they are. And I always know why.
Always.
MR. COLLINS.
SEAMUS. TOMMY.
Reconnaissance. Ascertain the enemy's numbers, and his movements.
Learn what you can.
And then act.
A little provocation goes a long way.

WHAT THE--?
WHAM

The plan was to stir up the nest.
BRATATATATATA

Thought I might learn something about what I'm up against.
But gunfire is all around me, every ricochet like a needle in my brain...
SPANG
PING

...it's about control. I can dodge a bullet.
I can't dodge the sound.

When the train comes, I learn something all right.
WHOOOOOOOOOOOO
I learn that I don't want to be in control.
I let go.
I stop caring about reconnaissance.

I stop caring about everything.
POP POP POP POP POP POP
I don't care about bootleggers.
I don't care about gangsters.
WHUD
I just want to make it all—
STOP!
IAN'S
No plan survives contact with the enemy.

WEEEEOOOO
WEEEEOOOO
POLICE
Five shots.
Five kills.
POLICE
The Bull's Eye killer. Wonder what he was doing here.
And these five men. What were they doing here?
And WHO were they doing it for?
IT'S THAT BULL'S EYE AGAIN.
He might have been standing right where I am now. If it wasn't windy, I'd be able to smell the smoke.
POLICE

ISN'T THIS MIKE QUINN. FROM THE LANDMARK? CAN'T EVEN DO COLLECTIONS IN THIS TOWN ANYMORE.
NOT FOR FISK. YOU CAN'T.

DON'T LET THE BIG MAN HEAR YOU SAY IT.
MARK MY WORDS, JIMMY. IF OLD BULL'S EYE GETS THE LANDMARK IN HIS SIGHTS, THERE'S YOUR SIGN. HALLORAN'LL BE THE NEW BOSS AROUND HERE.
I've known Jimmy for a long time.

If he says the Bull's Eye Killer is Halloran's men...
TELL YOU, JAKE. ALL THIS IS, IS HALLORAN SHOWING OFF.
SHUT YER MOUTH.

...he would know.
THIS BOY'S MY COUSIN RILEY.
I knew Riley too.

The Bull's Eye Killer is Halloran's man.
I TOLD YOU, RILEY. DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
I learned something after all.

HALLORAN'S THE NEW GAME IN TOWN.
I'm not going to let this happen to Eliza.

SO OUR MAN JIMMY THINKS THAT HALLORAN'S ABOUT TO MAKE A MOVE ON THE LANDMARK, HUH?
AND HE THINKS IT'LL BE THE FIRST SHOT IN THE OPEN WAR.

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS, FOGGY.

WHY?

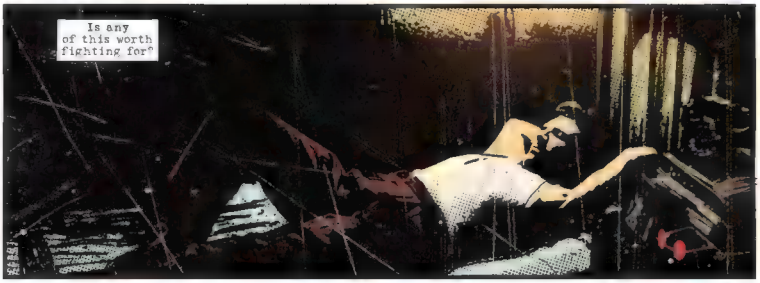
BECAUSE ELIZA MIGHT GET CAUGHT UP IN IT?

I'M supposed to be the one who knows what people are thinking.

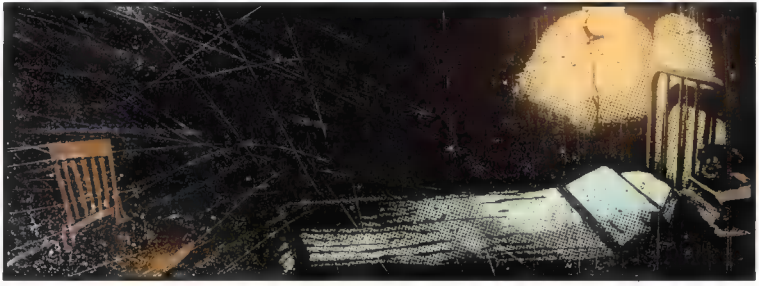
SPEAKING OF HER, WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND OUT?
SHE WAS BACK HERE THIS MORNING. I ASKED FOR DETAILS, BOY, DID I GET THEM, ACCORDING TO ...
NOT MUCH.
...I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD TELL YOU THIS.
YOU SHOULD.
SHE SAYS HALLORAN HAD MONEY ON YOUR DAD THROWING THE FIGHT THE NIGHT HE GOT KILLED.
MATT, WAIT. HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE?
I'LL FIND OUT.
SLOW DOWN, KID. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU NEED TO PUT YOUR HEAD DOWN. LET ALL OF THE BULLETS FIND SOMEBODY ELSE. FISK AND HALLORAN TAKE EACH OTHER OUT. GOOD FOR THEM. WHAT WE DO IS TRY TO KEEP PEOPLE OUT OF THE WAY...
...AND IF WE'RE LUCKY, THERE'LL STILL BE A KITCHEN WHEN THEY'RE DONE.
THAT'S THE COWARD'S WAY OUT.

Eliza.
Maybe if it wasn't for you, I would be a coward.
I think of you, and the rest of it goes away.
Thin ice over dark water.
Are you worth fighting for?
CHEATING WHORE.

YOU CHEATING WHORE I'LL PUT A GUN IN YOUR MOUTH BEFORE YOU
I'LL DO IT MYSELF YOU BASTARD
WALK OUT ON ME
SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP


Is any of this worth fighting for?

Coward.



She lives at 51st and 10th. Bet she does her drinking at Gilooly's. It's Halloran's place.
Tonight I will just be Murdock.
(I'm lying to myself, the suit underneath my clothes like a skin I'll never shed.)
But since [redacted] else can lie to me, I have to lie to myself.
MIND IF I JOIN YOU?
Ah. Sandalwood.
WELL MATT MURDOCK. WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT SO LATE? FOGGY GOT YOU FOLLOWING ME?
Just say it.
MAY I TOUCH YOUR FACE?
YES. YOU MAY.

She tips her head back as my fingertips get close, and the first thing I touch is the tip of her chin.
My little finger grazes the inside of her larynx and I feel her make a little sound...
...a sound that tells me nobody has ever touched her like this before.
I know I've never touched anybody like her before.
It's hard to stop.
WELL, NOW THAT WE'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW EACH OTHER...

[redacted] THAT TRUE, WHAT YOU TOLD FOGGY ABOUT--?
SHUSH. COME CLOSER.

YES. IT'S TRUE.
She's not lying.

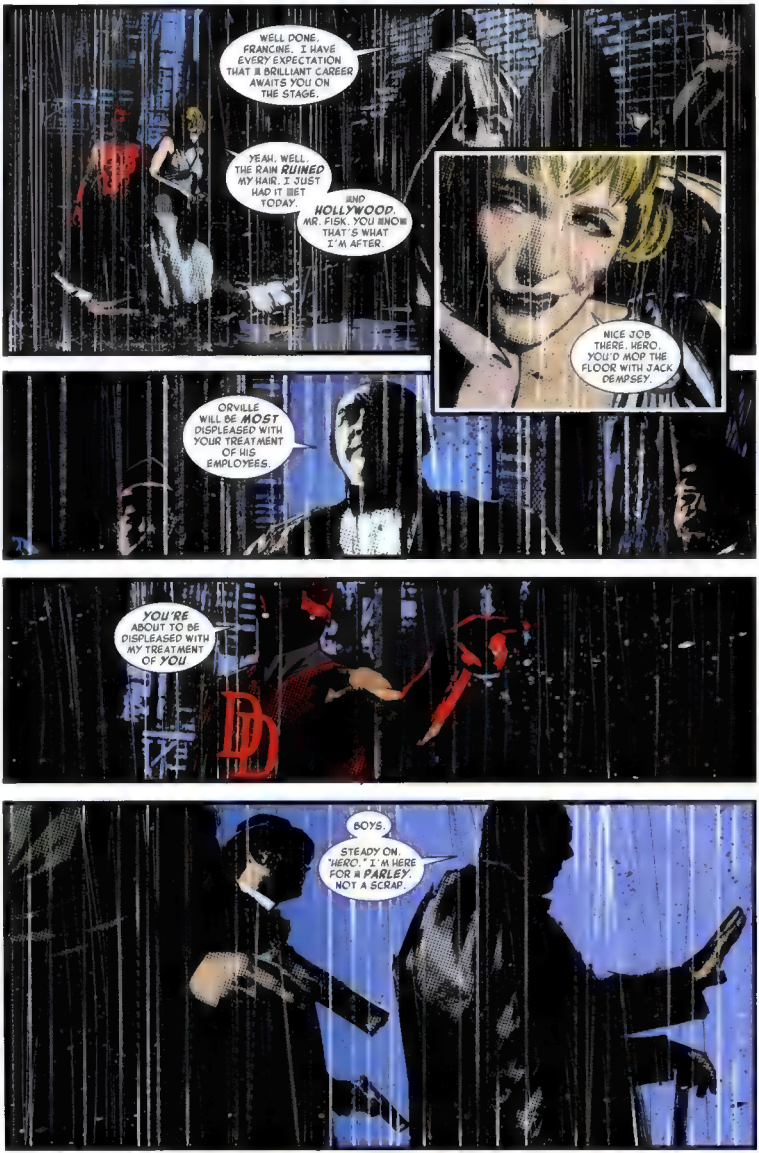
It's true.
BUT I DIDN'T TELL [redacted] THAT SO YOU COULD GO OFF [redacted] GET YOURSELF KILLED, OKAY? SAVE IT, MATT. SAVE IT UNTIL YOU CAN REALLY USE IT. DON'T BE A HERO.

OKAY?
Don't be a hero.

How much does she know about me? And who told her?
Rain's like static. But something... lost it.
Did I promise her not to use what I know about Halloran?
Or not to be a hero?
I don't know.
CRASH
HELP!
And just like that, it doesn't matter.
MURDOCK promissd her.
I'm not Murdock anymore.

Murdock's not a hero.
HELP MEEE!!!
Murdock doesn't break promises.
Murdock would never do this.
NNNNGGGHHH--!
CRACK

I can't do anything else.
GOOD EVENING, FAIR VIGILANTE.
I HAD HOPED FOR A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME.


WELL DONE, FRANCINE. I HAVE EVERY EXPECTATION THAT A BRILLIANT CAREER AWAITS YOU ON THE STAGE.
YEAH, WELL. THE RAIN RUINED MY HAIR. I JUST HAD IT SET TODAY.
AND HOLLYWOOD, MR. FISK. YOU KNOW THAT'S WHAT I'M AFTER.
NICE JOB THERE, HERO. YOU'D MOP THE FLOOR WITH JACK DEMPSEY.
ORVILLE WILL BE MOST DISPLEASED WITH YOUR TREATMENT OF HIS EMPLOYEES.
YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE DISPLEASED WITH MY TREATMENT OF YOU
BOYS.
STEADY ON. "HERO," I'M HERE FOR A PARLEY, NOT A SCRAP.

SET ME UP AGAIN: A SCRAP IS WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET.
WHEN THE TIME COMES, YOU'LL BE FIRST ON MY DANCE CARD.
BUT ARE YOU SO CONCERNED WHAT ORVILLE WILL THINK? AFTER YOU'VE RETIRED SO MUCH OF HIS WORK FORCE.
ONE MIGHT ALMOST THINK YOU HAD...HEARD SOMETHING.
SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR FATHER, PERHAPS?
SAY WHAT YOU CAME TO SAY.

I'LL BE BRIEF THEN. IT'S TRUE.
'TWAS ORVILLE HALLORAN WHO PUT THOSE BULLETS IN YOUR FATHER.
He's telling the truth.
BOYS.
Even through the rain I can hear his heartbeat. I can smell him.
"WHAT A GHASTLY WET NIGHT THAT WAS."

I DON'T GO OUT IN THE RAIN FOR JUST ANYONE, YOU KNOW.
SO IT WAS HALLORAN HIMSELF THAT TOLD YOU. NO WONDER YOU CAME ACROSS AS SO CERTAIN.
CLEVER, NO?
YEAH. CLEVER.

"BECAUSE THEN I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ELIZA."
TO BE CONTINUED...